

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 2

**JESUS CHOOSES
FOLLOWERS**

MARK 1:14-20

Life of Christ

Jesus Chooses Followers

Mark 1:14-20

Younger Verse

“Come, be my disciples.”

Mark 1:17

Older Verse

“Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus called four fisherman to follow Him
Recognize the faith of the disciples to leave everything and follow Jesus
Understand that we, too, can be followers of Jesus

Opener

Have you ever played “Follow the Leader?” What are you supposed to do when you play? Today we are going to learn what happens if Jesus is leading and we are the followers. Listen to hear what Jesus wants us to do.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned that Jesus was baptized. Do you remember who baptized Him? (John the Baptist) Later, John the Baptist was put in prison by a king who didn't like him. Right about that time, Jesus traveled to Galilee. He wanted to tell the people there some Good News! Have you ever had good news to tell? How did you feel about it?

As people gathered around Him, He said, “The time is now! Change your hearts and lives and believe the Good News!” Like Jesus, John the Baptist had told people to turn from their sins and turn to God. But Jesus had something new to share. He wanted the people to know that He had Good News—God's kingdom was very close to them.

One day, Jesus was walking by the shore of Lake Galilee. He looked out and saw two men fishing. They were throwing big heavy nets out, hoping to catch a lot of fish. These men were brothers. Their names were Simon and Andrew.

Then Jesus called out to them, “Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!” A disciple is a person that follows someone and learns from them. The men immediately left their nets and followed Jesus! Wow. They didn't go back for their boat or their net. They left it all behind to go with Jesus.

Jesus continued walking along the lake. Jesus looked out across the lake again. There He saw a group of men inside another boat. In the boat were two brothers, James and John, their father, Zebedee, and some other men. James and John were working on the net to get it ready to fish.

Jesus called out to James and John and said, “Come and follow me.” James and John said good-bye to their father, left everything behind, and started to follow Jesus.

Why did Jesus choose fishermen? These were hard-working men. They were not rich or educated. Yet that did not matter to Jesus. He cared about what was in their heart. He knew that they had faith in God. And that is what He was looking for in His followers. The fact that the men left everything to follow Jesus shows their great faith.

It is good to know that Jesus loves all people, however ordinary we might be. He is looking for those today who have faith to follow Him. When a person accepts Christ, they must leave all of their sinful ways and follow Jesus. Jesus said we cannot look back. On one occasion, He said that if someone wants to follow Him but looks back, they are not worthy of being His follower. That means that we need to continue to follow Jesus and not return to our old ways.

Have you decided to follow Jesus? If not, why not today? He is calling you to come and be His follower. Will you?

Review Questions

1. Where did Jesus go when He began preaching? (Galilee)
2. Who were the first two men Jesus called to follow Him? (Andrew and Simon) And the next two brothers? (James and John)
3. What did these men do when Jesus called them? (They left their nets and boats and followed Him.)
4. Why did Jesus choose fishermen to follow Him? (He was looking at their hearts and knew they had a lot of faith.)

Prayer Time

Thank God that we can become followers of Jesus. Pray that we will have faith like these four men and follow Jesus.

Life Application

Jesus never said that following Him would be easy. In fact, He already knew that He would die on the cross. His followers didn't ask how much money they would get or if they would become famous. They followed Jesus because they knew it was the right thing to do.

When Jesus calls us, He doesn't promise our lives will be easy either. But He does promise to always be with us to help us. He gives His Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him and ask Him to live in their hearts. The Holy Spirit helps us to be better followers.

Planning for Lesson 3
Jesus Heals Many
Mark 1:21-34

Preschool Lesson for Jesus chooses followers

Suggestions for teaching the lesson: *Use a stick with string tied to it for a fishing rod. Bring a picture of a boat. Have paper fish to write the names of people. Then write ways they can obey God on some little feet. These items will be used to help the children understand the story.*

Jesus was very excited! He had some important news to tell people. Have you ever been excited about telling some good news to someone? He wanted to tell people they had a way to get to Heaven. Jesus started walking. (Use your fingers to look like walking.)

He came up to a big lake and saw two men fishing. They were using a great big net to catch fish. The men there were brothers named Simon and Andrew. Jesus knew that they had been fishing for a long time. He also knew that they loved God and had faith in Him. He called out to them, “Come and follow me! I’ll help you tell other people about God’s love.” What do you think they did? (wait for responses) They left everything in the boat and began to walk with Jesus!

With His two new friends, Simon and Andrew, Jesus continued walking by the lake. He saw another boat filled with people. In this boat were two more brothers, James and John, their father, and some other men. Jesus yelled out to James and John, “Come and follow me!” The brothers said good-bye (wave bye) to their father and began to follow Jesus. Each of the men learned a lot from Jesus. They also got excited about sharing the Good News about God’s love.

Obedying Jesus and doing the things He said is how we follow Jesus. When we pray, listen at Bible Study, treat other people kindly, and when we sing songs to God, we are following Jesus. (Use the footsteps to show them the ways they can obey God. Have the children come up with names of people they can tell about Jesus and write those names down on the fish.) Encourage them to tell other people about Jesus.

Pray with the children that they will follow Jesus and help others to know how to follow Jesus.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus chooses Followers

Cut out fish shapes and write questions from the lesson. Let the kids take turns “fishing” and answering the questions.

Try the “Fishing for people” game. Bring a dowel with a string (fishing pole) or something similar. Spread out a blue sheet as a mat for the children to sit on. Select one volunteer to be the first “fisherman.” The rest of the children are the fish. They sit on the blue sheet with their backs facing the fisherman. The first fisherman casts his line toward the fish. Whenever the yarn string falls on someone, he/she comes to the fisherman and the fisherman tells him/her one thing about who Jesus is, what He is like, or what He has done for us. The "fish" who has been caught becomes the "fisherman" and casts the line toward the fish. The object of the activity is to see how many fish can be caught and how many ways we can learn to be fishers of men.

Play “Red Light, Green Light,” only instead of calling out "RED LIGHT" or “GREEN LIGHT” call out "RED FISH!" "GREEN FISH!" for stop and go.

Cut out two fish shapes using newspaper or cardstock. Write the verse on one of the fish. Staple or tape the two almost completely shut, leaving room to stuff with crumbled paper or tissue. Staple or tape closed. Hang up as a reminder of the lesson.

There are lots of varieties of snacks for today’s lesson. Fish crackers or gummy fish are an option as well as blue Jell-O cups or even fish sticks (if you have a microwave or oven).

Sing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”



**“Come, be
my disci-
ples.”**





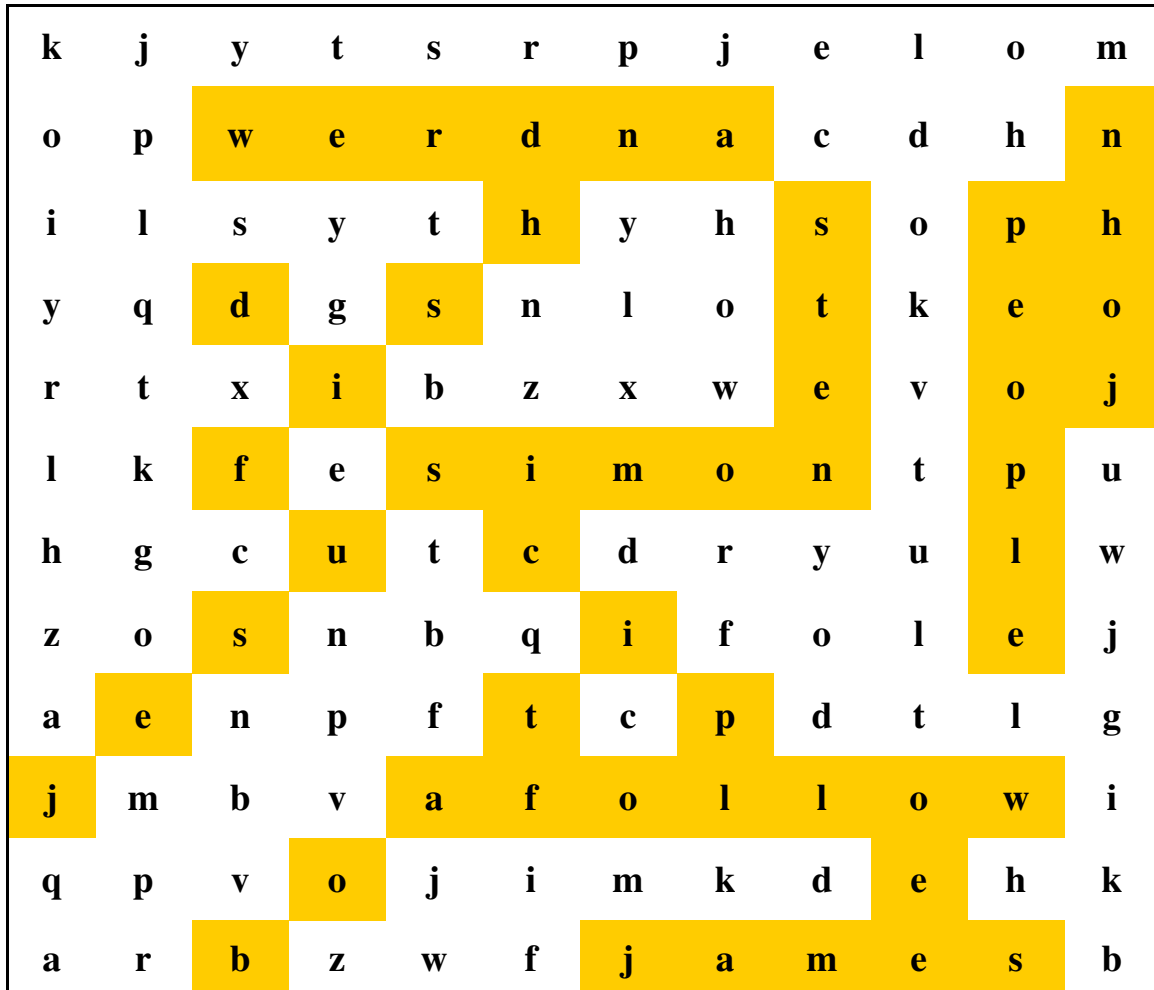
“Come, be my
disciples, and I will
show you how to fish
for people.”

Mark 1:17



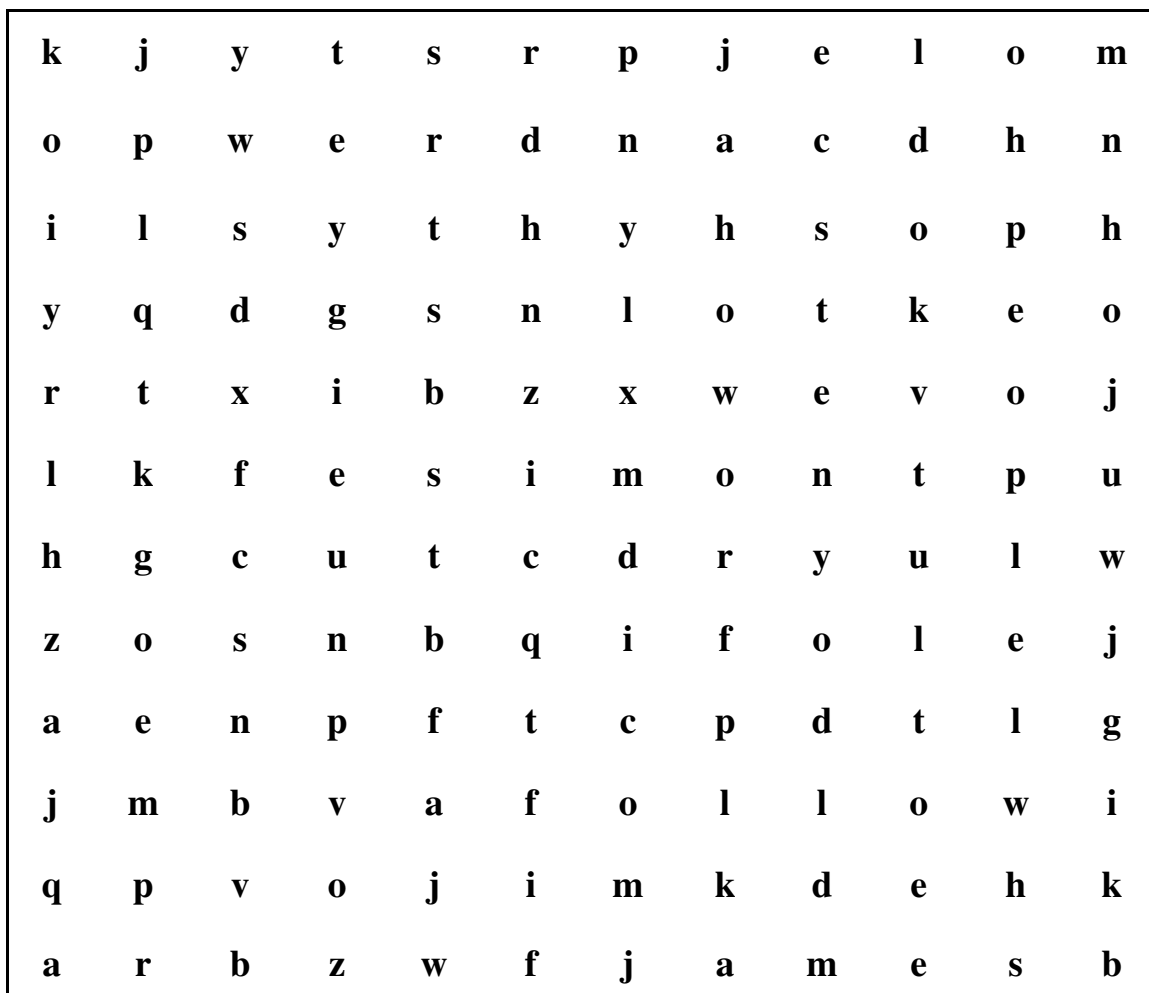
Word Search

Jesus Chooses Followers



disciples	Simon	Andrew
James	John	boat
nets	fish	people
follow	Jesus	

Word Search



disciples	Simon	Andrew
James	John	boat
nets	fish	people
follow	Jesus	

Trace the word that means a follower of Jesus.

Disciple



Fill in the blanks with the missing brother.

Andrew and _____

James and _____